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524941/0007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Seiichi Hirano, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2853

Application No.: 09/976,668

Examiner: M. Brooke

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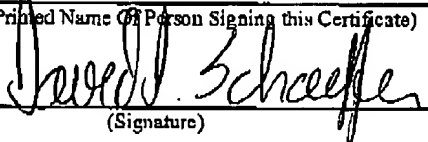
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